

PeaceWorks University

Toolbox Item: Build Involvement – Victim Care

Throughout 2022, PWU members will receive access to one video each month (twelve total) from Chris Moles in which he will introduce one of the six key elements of biblical counseling (*Gather Data, Build Involvement, Evaluate Problems Biblically, Minister the Word, Instill Hope, and Implement Homework*) and apply that key element to the specific practice of either victim care or perpetrator confrontation. After completing the *Key Elements of Biblical Counseling Success Path*, PWU members will be able to articulate each of the six key elements of biblical counseling and apply those elements to the particular needs of counselees, both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

PWU members will also receive access to one new Toolbox item each month corresponding to the key element of biblical counseling being taught and applied in that month's Success Path video (see above). Our hope is that these Toolbox items will give you practical tools to use as you incorporate these key elements into your own counseling ministry.

Principles of Building Involvement in Victim Care

1. Biblical counselors must be aware of the possible temptation to over-function in the life of the victim. Where the counselor might feel compelled to swoop-in and act on behalf of or make decisions for the victim, this will not serve her well. The goal should not be to simply move the victim out from under the ungodly control of her abuser to rest under the more “godly control” of the counselor. Instead, the aim of the counseling relationship must be to encourage and empower her to live as a full-functioning image-bearer, able to exercise her unique, God-given capacities, find her security and identity in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and depend on the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying and guiding presence in her life.
2. The process of building involvement with victims of abuse must be distinct from the process of building involvement with perpetrators of abuse. While the goal of mutual rapport or compassionate connection may exist in both cases, the means and methods will differ because the needs of the counselee and the role of the counselor in each relationship differ.¹
3. Biblical counselors must be aware of the potential for and impact of trauma, along with the ways in which trauma will likely affect the involvement building process.²
4. Biblical counselors must be prepared to express their compassionate care through understanding, patience, consistency, and endurance over time as they walk alongside victims through the lengthy, complex, and difficult process of responding to and healing from the abuse they have experienced.

¹ To learn more about building involvement with abuse perpetrators in the counseling room, please see the following resources housed within the PeaceWorks University membership site.

- Success Path Video - Build Involvement - Perpetrator Confrontation
- Toolbox Item - Build Involvement - Perpetrator Confrontation

² To learn more about trauma-informed victim care, please see the following resources housed within the PeaceWorks University membership site.

- Master Class - Complex Post-Traumatic Stress with Rachael Rosser
- Master Class - Stages of Change for Victims/Survivors with Summer Vinson-Berger
- Master Class - The Lived Experience of Abuse with Brad Hambrick
- Master Class - Understanding Trauma with Eliza Huie